



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Las Vegas Field Office**

4765 Vegas Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

Dear Friend of Red Rock,

I am pleased to present the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area **Proposed General Management Plan (GMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)** for your review and comment. The formal comment period on the GMP is July 1, 1999 to Sept. 30 1999. During this time BLM will hold a series of open houses and field trips to describe the elements of the plan and discuss proposed actions and future management direction.

I would like to thank you for your interest in the long term health and management of Red Rock Canyon. I would especially like to thank those individuals and organizations who volunteered to be on our planning team. They endured many meetings and long hours helping to shape the issues and alternative actions presented in this Proposed GMP/DEIS.

In preparing this Proposed GMP, Congressional direction in the legislation creating the National Conservation Area gave us our primary objectives. In the first paragraph of the Act it states "...to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the area in southern Nevada containing and surrounding the Red Rock Canyon and the unique and nationally important geologic, archaeological, ecological, cultural, scenic, scientific, wildlife, riparian, wilderness, endangered species, and recreation, there is established the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area." The Proposed GMP includes management direction for five specific subjects Congress required planning for - interpretation and public education, administrative and public facilities, cultural resources, wildlife and dispersed recreation activities.

As with all land use planning efforts, the Proposed GMP requires priority setting for resource and space allocation. Not all activities can occur everywhere, some are mutually exclusive and trade offs must be evaluated. The overall direction we have taken is to put the long term health, and in some cases recovery, of the Red Rock ecosystem as our first priority. All other resource uses and activities must fit into this overall direction. Of course even this objective is subject to priority setting since it could be argued that the best ecosystem management would be no human use at all. This however would not meet the Congressional intent in creating the National Conservation Area (i.e. "benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations") or be practical since human use is well established.

Therefore, we are presenting in the Proposed GMP/DEIS what we believe is the best mix of management direction, visitor use and ecosystem management that will meet the intent of the NCA designation and protect the long term health and vitality of the ecosystem. This does mean that there will be some changes in both human use and resource allocation.

Thanks to the efforts of BLM staff, volunteers and researchers, we are able to present some of the most complete and extensive data on wildlife, plants and riparian systems ever assembled for this type of planning effort. This data was not available to BLM in prior Red Rock planning efforts. As a result, some issues seem less critical now (i.e. some plant species once thought to be rare are now documented as commonly occurring) while other issues have become more critical (i.e. assessments of riparian areas has documented substantial on-going damage to riparian systems).

Thank you in advance for your participation in the review process and your comments. If any parts of the Proposed GMP/DEIS need clarification you can contact Gene Arnesen, GMP Team Leader at (702) 647-5068 ([gene\\_arnesen@nv.blm.gov](mailto:gene_arnesen@nv.blm.gov))

or Dave Wolf, Conservation Area Manager at (702) 647-5074 (dave\_wolf@nv.blm.gov).

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